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December 2008

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to address readers of the 33rd edition the *New York State Statistical Yearbook* – one of the most valuable tools for those working in, with, and for government at various levels.

New Yorkers appreciate the many individuals who comprise the public and private sectors of our workforce and whom we rely upon daily to carry out their jobs. In doing so, they impact people and communities across New York and, therefore, require an understanding of the state and local entities they deal with regularly.

Constant changes in demographics influence our State and it is important to track growth and development in all regions of New York. While the search for data can be time-consuming and difficult, the *New York State Statistical Yearbook* provides a reliable source of facts and figures listed according to borough, county and local municipality.

The *Yearbook* is also an excellent source of information regarding government and public services on a broader statewide level. Similar facts about other states allow for a comparison of New York to the rest of the nation, keeping us competitive and progressive in today's society.

For more than three decades, this valuable compendium has been made available through the cooperation of State agencies and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government with each edition reflecting yearly shifts in population and changes in economy, employment, education and other areas. It remains a standard among experienced professionals and those preparing to enter the job market who appreciate accurate research information about New York State. I applaud those who work so diligently at compiling its many pages of useful data.

Best wishes to the readers and contributors to the *Statistical Yearbook*. Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. PATERSON